

October 18, 2021

Dear Families of Battle River School Division:

Despite our school division's best hopes that we could return to a more 'normal' school environment this fall, COVID-19 continues to have a strong hold on our schools and communities. Our province is currently in a State of Public Health Emergency.

Across Alberta, the number of school-aged children who are contracting COVID has been increasing. We are grateful to everyone who is monitoring their children and keeping them home when they are not well. But, as is the case in all school divisions, we continue to be notified by Alberta Health Services about people who have been at school while infectious.

At the request of Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services, BRSD is temporarily introducing "COVID-19 Hazard Control" measures. The intent is to help protect the health and safety of students and staff in schools while Alberta works to get through to the other side of this current situation.

The decision to implement these measures was made by the BRSD Board of Trustees and not by individual schools. Implementation is being overseen by the BRSD senior administration. Other school divisions are implementing similar practices.

These measures do not apply to students.

Effective Friday, October 29, all Board members, staff, parents, facility user groups, visiting sports team officials and spectators, contractors, volunteers and anyone else who wishes to enter a school will be required to provide either proof of vaccination or a negative rapid test result prior to entering the school building or interacting with students. All schools in BRSD will follow the same measures, so that no matter which school your children attend or where a visitor might go within the school division, the expectations are the same.

The school division recognizes that these measures may create questions. You can read the entire Administrative Procedure 451 – COVID-19 Hazard Control on our website:

<https://www.brsd.ab.ca/download/369275>

The BRSD Board has made a commitment to review the plans regularly and make updates to reflect any changes happening at the provincial level. Thank you for your understanding of these temporary measures.

Karen Belich, Chair
BRSD Board of Trustees

Rita Marler
Superintendent of Schools